

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This response is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 29, 2004, to request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 10 as set forth therein. In the event the Examiner determines that the foregoing amendments do not place the case in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered to place the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner maintains the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication No. 07036061A to Aoki et al. (hereinafter “Aoki”), and the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Aoki and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,476 to Abe et al. (hereinafter “Abe”).

In the response to the previous Office Action, independent claim 1 was amended to recite that the plurality of scanning lines overlying the transparent substrate extend in a row direction in a horizontal plane, that the plurality of common lines in the horizontal plane each corresponding to one of the scanning lines, and that the coupling line and the common lines are connected on the same horizontal plane. The Examiner, in response, alleges that Aoki’s coupling line 7 is clearly connected to the common line 5 on the same horizontal plane. Therefore, the Examiner maintains the rejections of claims 1 and 10.

In the configuration of the LCD device of the present invention, the coupling lines 18A and 18B connect the common lines 16 together, and connect the terminals 24A and 24B of the common lines 16. Further, the common lines and coupling lines are connected directly, and not

through contact holes as in Aoki. The common lines and coupling lines are both on the transparent substrate 12, as shown in Fig. 2 and recited on page 9, lines 1-14.

Aoki, in the Abstract and Fig. 1, clearly requires contact holes to connect the capacitance lines with the common lines 7. Further, as the capacitance lines 5 are partly overlying on the common lines 7, the capacitance lines 5 are clearly not on the identical horizontal plane as the common lines 7.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation that the coupling lines and the common lines are connected to each other on the same horizontal plane and on the transparent substrate, without a contact hole.

Further, claim 1 has been further amended to recite that the pair of coupling lines extend in a peripheral area of the TFT panel outside the area for the pixel array, and the pair of coupling lines form a loop circuit in association with the common lines for applying an equi-potential to the common lines without substantially a time difference.

Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification; specifically, in Fig. 2, and on page 9, line 1 – page 10, line 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by way of the amendment to claim 1. Further, as claim 1 has simply been amended to clarify the connection of the coupling line and common lines, Applicants respectfully submit that no new issues are raised by way of the amendment to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment to claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a plurality of common lines to extend in the row direction parallel to the scanning lines, where the scanning lines and the common lines are formed in a single layer, a pair of coupling lines formed in the single layer, where the coupling lines connect the common lines, and wherein the coupling lines and the common lines are connected to each other on the same

horizontal plane and on the transparent substrate, without a contact hole. Further, claim 1 recites that the pair of coupling lines extend in a peripheral area of the TFT panel outside the area for the pixel array, and the pair of coupling lines form a loop circuit in association with the common lines for applying an equi-potential to the common lines without substantially a time difference.

Aoki, as clearly shown in Fig. 1, shows common lines 7 connected to capacitance lines 5 connected through a contact hole H. Therefore, it is clear that the common lines 7 and capacitance lines 5 in Aoki cannot be on a same horizontal plane. The present invention connects the common lines and coupling lines so that a contact hole is not necessary as is required by Aoki, and that the common lines and coupling line are connected and overlie on a same horizontal plane, with a contact hole.

Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference, disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim. Lindeman Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist and Derrick Company, 730 F.2d 1452, 1458; 221 U.S.P.Q. 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984). As Aoki fails to teach the elements of independent claim 1, as discussed above, it is respectfully requested that the §102(b) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn, and that claim 1 be allowed.

Turning to the §103(a) rejection of dependent claim 10, it must be noted that the Examiner relies on Aoki, in combination with Abe, to support the asserted rejection. As set out above, Aoki does not disclose all the elements of independent claim 1. Accordingly, since dependent claim 10 recites additional unique elements and/or limitations, claim 10 remains patentable over the asserted combination since the cited additional reference does not supply the elements missing from Aoki with respect to the independent claim. Therefore, it is respectfully

requested that the §103(a) rejection of claim 10 be withdrawn, and respectfully requested that claims 1 and 10 be allowed.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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